



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,817	07/14/2003	Ronald R. West	3423.2.1	7643
7590	01/07/2005		EXAMINER	
Michael W. Starkweather Starkweather and Associates 9035 South 1300 East Suite 200 Sandy, UT 84094			JILLIONS, JOHN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3654	
DATE MAILED: 01/07/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/619,817	WEST, RONALD R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John M. Jillions	3654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 and 21-26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 21-26 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either of Vitale or Brown, both of record. Both of Vitale and Brown have two winding regions of equal length separated by a post, member 3 of Vitale and member 3, 3a of Brown.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black '405 in view of Hu, newly cited. Hu discloses a hand carried cord storage unit having tapered slots 131, 141 that also includes pairs of nubs on opposite walls thereof. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the slots of Black '405 with pairs of nubs inside the slots in view of the teaching of Hu, in order to more firmly grip the line material. With respect to claim 2 whether the pairs of nubs are used to grip a single cord would obviously have

depended on how large the cord is, and one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that both pairs of nubs would grip a single cord if the cord was of a size to extend the length between successive pairs of nubs.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black '405 in view of Hu, as in the rejection of claim 1 above, further in view of Gruenewald. It would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the slots of Black '405 flexible in view of the teaching of Gruenewald in order to facilitate placement of the cord within the slots.

4. Claims 5, 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black '405 in view of Hu, as in the rejection of claim 1 above, further in view of Vitale, of record. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the inner winding region length of both winding regions of the same length, especially in view of the showing of Vitale, note the length of the winding region between posts 2 and 3 is the same length as between posts 3 and 4. Such a modification would have been obvious since one of ordinary skill in the art would have discerned that the winding lengths could have been whatever length is desired depending on the amount of cord desired to be stored in each winding region.

5. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black '405 in view of Hu and Vitale as in the rejection of claim 11 above, further in view of Gruenewald. It would further have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the slots of Black '405 flexible in view of the teaching of Gruenewald in order to facilitate placement of the cord within the slots. The remarks above concerning claim 2 are equally applicable to claim 13.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 21-26 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Jillions whose telephone number is (703) 308-2685. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:15 - 5:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John M. Jillions
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3654

jmj